

## **IAMS MATTERS JANUARY-MARCH 2015**

Dear colleagues,

These times look very confusing from the point of mission studies: On one hand, the field is experiencing drastic change where the old names of disciplines are changing, and in many cases not only Christian mission but also the study of it is questioned. On the other hand, it seems that today's world needs more than ever before knowledge about interreligious encounters, something mission scholars should be able to produce. Perhaps it is also a matter of how we are packaging our expertise. At any rate, today we believe we are increasingly relevant.

Preparations for the 2016 General Assembly are proceeding on many fronts. The conference website where you can upload your paper proposals (abstracts) is functioning (for details, see below). Streamlining the constitution is proceeding well (thanks to the Senior Advisory Group!) and I hope to be able to send you a draft to be commented on in a forthcoming IAMS Matters. It is important that the executive gets plenty of varied feedback before taking the proposal to the General Assembly in Seoul so that the outcome will be as beneficial for the association as possible. My hope is that when we arrive in the General Assembly, we would have pinpointed those issues that need discussion and can concentrate on them.

Also study groups have been busy – please, note that BISAM has published a new book. As usual, there are a couple of announcements at the end of this bulletin.

With wishes for a peaceful Lent,

Mika Vähäkangas,

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE IAMS 2016 CALL OF PAPERS:**

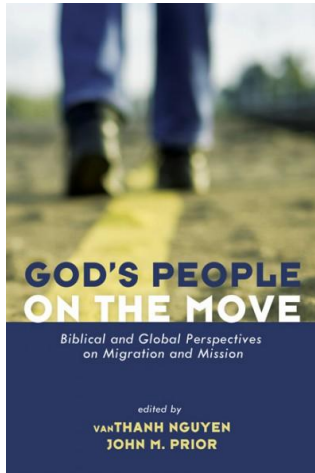
For details of call of papers: <http://www.teol.lu.se/forskning/konferenser-och-symposier/iams-2016/>

In order to upload your paper proposal (abstract), you will need to register on the conference website: <http://www.sol.lu.se/conferenceRegistration/conferenceRegistration.php?conferenceId=37>

Note, that in case you wish to cancel your registration later on, you will be able to do that. Registration on the conference website will make the detailed conference program as well as the conference papers available to you online.

You may upload your paper proposal with no prior consultation with the secretariat but if you have questions or need assistance, do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat (contact details on the conference website in the end of the call for papers).

## Biblical Studies and Mission (BISAM)



Members of the BISAM study group have reasons to rejoice this new year and springtime. We are pleased to announce the publication our book titled, *God's People on the Move: Biblical and Global Perspectives on Migration and Mission*, edited by vanThanh Nguyen and John M. Prior (Pickwick Publications). The book seeks to develop appropriate biblical and missiological response to the issue of human migration and dislocation. The book is divided into two major sections. Part one, "Biblical Perspectives on Migration and Mission," contains six essays that focus on various biblical themes or texts that deal with migration and mission. Part two, "Contemporary Issues of Migration and Mission," contains six essays that address different immigration issues around the world.

Most of the contributors of this volume are members of BISAM and were presenters at the IAMS conference in 2012 at Toronto. The contributors are: Sarita D. Gallagher; Timothy A. Lenchak; Robert L. Gallagher; Paul Hertig; vanThanh Nguyen; Amy C. West; Craig S. Hendrickson; Philemon G. Beghela; John M. Prior; and George M. Wieland. The internationality of the contributors gives this book a unique global perspective on migration and mission.

The reviews and endorsements of this book are noteworthy to highlight. Donald Senior writes, "Global in scope and ecumenical in spirit, this biblical and theological study on migration makes genuine contribution to the church's reflection on the meaning of migration." "This book is a magnificent addition to the burgeoning literature on the theology of migration," says Peter Phan. Daniel Groody comments that the book is "not just a reflection about theology and migration but about what it means to be human before God." And M. Daniel C. Rodas acknowledges that this book is "a wonderful resource for our time: experienced missiologists from various traditions, steeped in the Scriptures and committed to their particular contexts, demonstrate the relevance of the word of the God who loves the immigrant."

For more information about or an excerpt of the book please go to: <http://wipfandstock.com/god-s-people-on-the-move.html>. For kindle edition, go to: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/BOOSIAIU9M>. For review, examination or desk copies, please write to: [toni@wipfandstock.com](mailto:toni@wipfandstock.com).

Gratefully,

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## ASM Annual Meeting 2015

The American Society of Missiology (ASM) will meet June 19-21, 2015 at Wheaton College. The primary theme for this year's annual meeting is *Missio-logoi: The Many Languages of Mission*. A related symposium, especially but not exclusively for younger scholars of mission, will focus on publishing in the field of missiology (current trends and future prospects). Confirmed plenary speakers include Lamin Sanneh (Yale University), Kirsteen Kim (Leeds Trinity University, UK), Terry Muck (Louisville Institute), and Stanley Skreslet (ASM President). Carey Newman, the director of Baylor University Press, will give a special presentation on the symposium theme.

### Call for Papers

In relation to this year's ASM theme, *missio-logoi* are understood to be words, images and other forms of human expression that relate to Christian mission. Through such discourses, critics and proponents alike discuss, analyze and/or portray Christian mission. When presented as missionary speech, *missio-logoi* are also a vital means by which evangelists and other Christian witnesses attempt to share the claims of the gospel with others, while inviting them to become fellow disciples of Jesus Christ. When part of outreach, *missio-logoi* may take many different forms, whether spoken, written or embodied in life by some other means.

Papers are invited that address particular aspects of the conference theme, such as:

- Visual arts, music and missionary outreach
- The new media and cross-cultural evangelism
- Narrative theologies of mission in action
- Architecture and other forms of globalized church culture as missionary speech
- The reception of missionary discourses
- Hidden discourses in the archives
- Historiographical depictions of mission
- Portrayal of mission(aries) in film and fiction
- Ways of speaking about mission in the secular academy (e.g., paradigm theory, intercultural theology, interfaith dialogue, World Christianity)
- Secular discourses about Christian mission
- Publishing trends in missiology

High-quality papers not directly related to the conference theme will also be considered, as space allows. To submit your title and 200-word abstract (**Deadline January 30, 2015**), click on the following link:

To submit a paper proposal: <http://goo.gl/forms/e42rEWLaKF>

Confirmation of accepted papers expected by March 2, 2015

### Organizing a panel

This year it is possible again for a team of three to four scholars to coordinate and submit a session proposal focused on some common sub-topic that relates to the primary theme of the conference, the symposium theme, or another subject. This could involve a session of up to four papers or three

papers and a respondent. Each person would individually submit her/his paper proposal and then the session organizer would submit separately below a session title and 300-word abstract, along with a list of the participants for that session. Again, the **deadline is January 30, 2015**.

To submit a panel proposal: <http://goo.gl/forms/tCvqFDVMpp>

Confirmation of accepted panel proposals expected by March 2, 2015

The prospects for missiology are bright. Over the past few years, we've seen significant growth in attendance at our annual meeting and a rapid increase in the number of papers presented in the parallel sessions. Do plan to participate and join us at Wheaton College this year, while also encouraging your colleagues and students to take advantage of the wonderful ASM program that is coming together.

### **Questions?**

If about papers proposals or session proposals, contact Paul Kollman (ASM 2nd VP; [pkollman@nd.edu](mailto:pkollman@nd.edu))

If about the ASM travel pool, contact Duane Brown (ASM treasurer; [debrownphd@gmail.com](mailto:debrownphd@gmail.com))

If about the conference in general, contact Stan Skreslet (ASM President; [sskreslet@upsem.edu](mailto:sskreslet@upsem.edu))

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### **Part time home based Programme Director for an innovative online Master's degree in Theology and Leadership.**

In support of the development of a new online Master's programme in Theology and Leadership, validated by the University of Roehampton, London, Laureate online Education is seeking to appoint a part time, 0.2fte Programme Director.

As a member of the Academic Team, the Programme Director is primarily responsible for ensuring the quality of academic delivery of the relevant university programmes. This position is the first point of contact to the university partner department on matters of quality assurance. This person is also jointly responsible for maximizing the student experience, student academic outcomes, and maintaining the quality of content of the modules. The Programme Director is also involved in the long term development and growth of the programmes under his or her responsibility, and contributes to planning discussions on their effective marketing, positioning, and commercial viability.

The position is available immediately, is home based and available as a 0.2 fte.

For more information:  
[www.laureate.net](http://www.laureate.net)

## **Lund Mission Studies Open Seminar 2015: Theological and philosophical responses to syncretism**

**Time:** 23rd March 10 am - 24th March noon

**Location:** Lund University, LUX (Helgonagatan 3), for the meeting premises see the program

**Sponsored by:** Lunds Missionssällskap and Centre for Theology and Religious Studies (Lund University)

**Seminar fee:** The seminar is free of charge

PhD students and other interested paper presenters are welcome to present their papers in paper sessions of the 24<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Confirmed external contributors:**

Gavin D'Costa, Bristol

Elizabeth Harris, Liverpool

Tan Kang San, Kuala Lumpur

Peter C. Phan, Georgetown (USA)

Elisabeth Gerle, Uppsala

Jonas A. Jørgensen, Copenhagen

Program and registration: <http://www.teol.lu.se/forskning/konferenser-och-symposier/tprs-2015/>